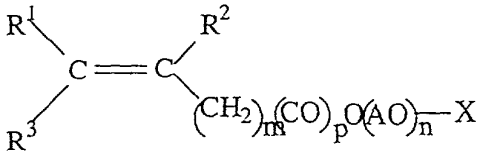
What is claimed is:

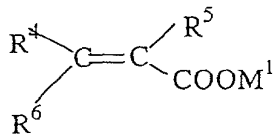
1. A powdery dispersant for a hydraulic composition, which comprises at least one copolymer obtainable by polymerizing at least one vinyl monomer (a) represented by the formula (1):



(1)

wherein R^1 and R^2 represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or $-COO(AO)_nX$, m is a number of 0 to 2, p is a number of 0 or 1, AO represents a C_{2-4} oxyalkylene group or an oxystyrene group, n is the average mole number and is a number of 2 to 300 and X represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-18} alkyl group;

with at least one vinyl monomer (b) represented by the formula (2):



(2)

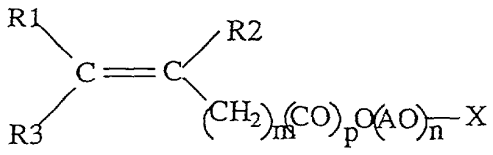
wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 are the same as or different from one another and each represent a hydrogen atom, a methyl group or $-(CH_2)_{m1}COOM^2$ in which $-(CH_2)_{m1}COOM^2$ may be combined with $-COOM^1$ or another $-(CH_2)_{m1}COOM^2$ to produce an anhydride, M^1 and M^2 of these groups not being present, M_1 and M_2 represent a hydrogen

atom or a polyvalent metal and m_1 is a number of 0 to 2,

in which the average mole number of C_{2-4} oxyalkylene groups or oxystyrene groups added to the dispersant molecule is 45 to 150, (a)/[(a) + (b)] × 100 ranges from 15 to 45 (mole%) and at least part of the copolymer is a polyvalent metal salt.

2. The powdery dispersant according to claim 1, wherein (a)/[(a) + (b)] × 100 ranges from 20 to 35 mole%.

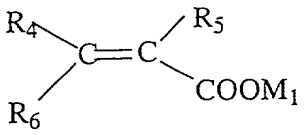
3. A powdery dispersant for a hydraulic compositions, which comprises at least one copolymer obtained by polymerizing at least one vinyl monomer (a) represented by the formula (1):



(1)

wherein R^1 and R^2 represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or $-COO(AO)_nX$, m is a number of 0 to 2, p is a number of 0 or 1, AO represents a C_{2-4} oxyalkylene group or an oxystyrene group, n is the average mole number of added groups and is a number of 2 to 300 and X represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-18} alkyl group;

with at least one vinyl monomer (b) represented by the formula (2):



(2)

wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 are the same as or different from one another and each represent a hydrogen atom, a methyl group or $-(CH_2)_{m1}COOM^2$ in which $-(CH_2)_{m1}COOM^2$ may be combined with $-COOM^1$ or another $-(CH_2)_{m1}COOM^2$ to produce an anhydride, M^1 and M^2 of these groups not being present, M_1 and M_2 represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent metal and m_1 is a number of 0 to 2,

in which the average mole number of C_{2-4} oxyalkylene groups or oxystyrene groups added to the dispersant molecule is 50 to 150, (a)/[(a) + (b)] $\times$ 100 ranges from 15 to 45 (mole%) and at least part of the copolymers is a monovalent metal salt.

4. The powdery dispersant according to claim 3, wherein (a)/[(a) + (b)] $\times$ 100 ranges from 20 to 45 mole%.

5. The powdery dispersant according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the average mole number of C_{2-4} oxyalkylene groups or oxystyrene groups added is 60 to 130.

6. The powdery dispersant according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the average mole number of C_{2-4} oxyalkylene groups or oxystyrene groups added is 60 to 115.

7. The powdery dispersant according to claim 1, wherein all the copolymers are polyvalent metal salts in part.

8. The powdery dispersant according to claim 1 or 3, which comprises a copolymer obtained from starting monomers containing 98 to 100 % by weight of the monomers (a) and (b).

9. The powdery dispersant according to claim 1 or 3, which comprises 50 to 100 % by weight of dispersant particles whose diameter is 500 μm or less.

10. A hydraulic composition comprising the powdery dispersant described in claim 1 or 3 and a hydraulic composition.

11. Use of the powdery dispersant described in claim 1 or 3 as a dispersant for a hydraulic composition.

12. A method of dispersing a hydraulic composition by the powdery dispersant described in claim 1 or 3.